

# YWCA Observes 75th Year With Drive To Add Members And Raise \$395,000

## Harlem Branch Contributed to Community Aid

**Guidance, Housing, Religion,  
Employment, Education and  
Companionship Are Goals**

It's been a long time in anyone's memory since the New York Young Women's Christian Association first opened its doors to the women and girls of the city. This is its seventy-fifth year. During that time it has been a leader in aiding young people in the fields of guidance, housing, employment, education, religion and just plain companionship. Its main purpose is to be of service to the women of the community, and all its activities revolve around this fundamental goal.

In the Harlem area, the branch of the YWCA serving the community has built a reputation on its own for service. The building is buzzing every day of the year with the varied activities which have grown out of the specific and general needs of the community.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Cecelia Cabaniss Saunders, the Harlem branch of the organization is during this month and next aiding in the campaign so that the "YW" may reach a goal of \$395,000 for the year. With this additional money the activities of the "Y" may continue, as in the past, to minister to the needs of the young women of the community.

### Has Varied Program

Under the program of the Harlem YWCA classes are held for those who wish to continue their education, with special emphasis placed upon vocational training. Meetings of young people in all age groups and with varying interests are held within the building, counselors are on hand to listen to the problems of all girls and women who need such service, and not only to listen but to give aid where aid is necessary or at least advice.

Teen-age canteen night is one of the highlights for the young people there, as well as the facilities for swimming and gymnastics. Full activity programs provide for young people whose parents are not at home during the day to see that they are properly supervised. During the summer months Fern Rock in up-State New York provides a chance

for young folk to live in the open for several weeks of the year, swimming and playing games, learning to enjoy a hike and a campfire at night.

The employment service conducted by the organization had, during 1944 alone, 4,938 workers registered for jobs. Of this number 4,085 placements of the registrants was made through efforts of the employment office.

### Women Learn Skills

In the trade school conducted by the Harlem branch, young women are learning new skills, and they are kept abreast of the job opportunities in their fields. Often the close connection between the trade school and the employment office, aids a girl to choose a field who finds there are few openings for the sort of job is already prepared to do.

The "Y" dormitory affords living quarters for many young women who are unable to keep an apartment or who have no relatives or friends in the city with whom they may live. Those who wish living quarters and cannot be housed in the "Y" building are sent to homes which have been investigated by the organization. They can rent rooms outside of the "Y", knowing that they are living in a decent atmosphere.

### Early Days Difficult

In all of these and many other ways, the "Y" in New York serves the community needs. Through its contact department a close line is kept between the organization and the community. Members are brought in who may be helpful in the continuation of the "Y" services and in supporting the organization.

When the YMCA first opened its doors in New York it began its work under adverse circumstances. The Civil War had just ended, and the country was in the midst of a deep depression. It weathered that first storm, keeping then, as now, its main function clear before it—ministering as a counselor and guidance organization to all who needed aid.

At 75 years of age the "Y" is a hardy lady, full of all of the vigor of work well done, and ready for the years ahead and the problems that these years will bring.—CC.



## 3-5-45 Well Done, Atlantans

The inspiring manner in which colored Atlantans have met the challenge imposed upon them in the necessary funds with which to erect a sorely needed building for our Young Women's Christian Association, is a grand performance, the like of which no previous campaign has surpassed or equaled. With an initial goal of \$30,000, Atlantans joyously entered into the spirit of the occasion to sweep far past this goal, reporting the handsome sum of \$41,733.48.

With this sum in hand, together with the pledges, we are now assured of a decent and modern home in which to house our young women and to provide the Christian influence, so vital to the growth and development of our future mothers and leaders of tomorrow. That is as it should be. Atlanta, as we have stated before, has not been as kind and considerate of the needs of our young women as it has been to our young men. Now that we have turned our faces in the direction of this imperative, we may be certain that it will be reflected in better and finer womanhood leadership and living. For that Atlantans are to be congratulated.

At the same time this, excellent performance would not have been achieved without the engineering genius of those civic leaders, men and women, who gave of their time and material resources to make the campaign a success. Especially does Atlanta owe to Miss Harris a lasting debt of gratitude for the worthy part she played, not only in the current drive just closed, but for her wholesome influence for finer womanhood in our girls over the years.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

ITEM

Circ. D. 71,058

MAY 23 1945

## Letters From Item Readers

### Would Enlarge The Program

The campaign for \$200,000 to build a YWCA for Negroes deserves the wholehearted support of our entire community. I am sure that the need will be met.

But by its very nature, such an institution will serve only a limited number of the Negroes of New Orleans. It cannot possibly reach the rank and file of our tremendous Negro population.

What New Orleans needs is an adequate public park for Negroes. So far as I know, there is no place where a Negro church can hold a picnic, no adequate swimming facilities, and no publicly maintained athletic field. Playgrounds near housing projects or schools do not serve the purpose. We need a park, properly equipped, which they can call their own.

Our own parks and lakefront only serve to emphasize our failure to provide some such facility for Negroes. And now that we shall be made aware of the Negroes' needs—through

the YWCA Campaign—Why do we not tackle the problem on a scale worthy of a city like New Orleans?

## \$200,000 Fund Raising Drive For YWCA Starts Louisiana Weekly

The \$200,000 fund-raising campaign for a post-war Negro Branch of the New Orleans Young Women's Christian Association has the field organization perfected and everything in readiness for the drive.

A preliminary dinner was held at the Roosevelt hotel last Monday evening, at which time prominent

## NEGRO Y. W. C. A. WILL OPEN HERE

Tampa's first Negro branch of the YWCA will be opened early in the fall, Miss Gladys Taber, executive secretary of the YWCA here, announced yesterday.

Sponsored by the Inter-Racial committee of the organization and to be operated on funds granted by the Community Chest, the branch will have desk space in the Urban League. A professional worker who will be trained at the YWCA school in Chicago this summer will be on duty daily.

Plans being made by the committee, of which Mrs. F. K. Conn is chairman, include coordination of club activities in an out of schools and establishment of cultural and recreational classes.

Recent New Orleanians depicted the deficiencies in present provisions for health education, sleeping quarters, and human guidance for the city's Negro girls and young women.

James W. Smither, Jr., campaign chairman, has outlined the lacks in the following words:

"The need for an adequate Y. W. C. A. Branch for Negro women becomes apparent when we study the Federal Census for 1940. That survey revealed more than 80,000 Negro women in the city, with more than 30,000 in the 20-to-39 age bracket. More than 14,000 Negro girls from 10 to 19 years of age reside in the city. There is an appalling lack of living quarters for Negro women

Branch campaign leaders include James Lewis, Jr., chairman; Lawrence Crocker, Special Gifts Committee chairman; C. L. Speaker, chairman of Men's Teams, and Mrs. W. Sazon Dorsey, chairman of Women's Teams.

The campaign will continue through May, the Branch phase opening May 15. After that time men's and women's teams will carry on active solicitation.

transients, and only meagre eating facilities are available."

The building is to be erected at the corner of South Claiborne and Cleveland Avenues, on land already deeded for the purpose of a public-spirited citizen. Construction is to begin as soon as manpower and materials are available, and until building operations can get underway, the Y. W. C. A. Board of Directors has decided to invest the money in Seventh War Loan Bonds.

Three floors are planned for the building, with a library, cafeteria, an auditorium-gymnasium seating 300 persons, dormitory space and many other modern features.





**"YWCA" CAMPAIGN LEADERS—**  
These are captains, workers and members of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA campaign staff as they appeared on the closing night of the successful drive. Memberships secured were 2,311.  
Seated at the table l to r: Mrs.

A. Louise Taylor, Executive Director; Mrs. A. C. Williams, Chairman of Membership Department; Mrs. Iola Rogers, Cub's Divisional Leader; Mrs. Lillian Garnett, Tiger's Divisional Leader and Mrs. Mary Kate Duskin, Executive Director of Central Branch.  
Second Row Captains Evelyn

Scrotchings; Ida Brittain, Edith Walker, Alma Sanders, Laurine Weaver; Anne Caudle, Roberta Harper; M. L. Bickers, H. L. Gouldrock; Mrs. J. W. Dobbs, Chairman of Committee of Management.—Team workers and members of Phyllis Wheatley Staff.

# Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA *Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.* Leads Nation In Memberships

**Workers Exceed Campaign Goal  
Of \$2,000 By \$647, Reports Show**  
*11-11-45*

**BY "Y" STAFF WRITER**  
One of the most unusual experiences in the history of Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA was realized Monday night, November 5 at the Savoy Hotel when captains and workers in the city-wide membership campaign met to make final reports. The "Little World" Series between the Tigers and Cubs ended with the Tigers leading by a wide margin. The air was filled with friendly rivalry, competition and team-work. Never before have so many women and girls been approached to renew old memberships or to take out new ones. Never before has the response been so great. After reports were made, it was revealed that the Tigers, led by Mrs. Lillian Garnett, led the series by a margin of \$448.05.

Here is a leader to be commended and looked upon with pride and admiration by the Association and the community. For a woman to excel as a housewife, teacher in the Public School system, active member of the Association Committee of Management and Executive Board, chairing personnel and interracial Department and at the same time lead a division of nine captains and their workers to victory in the eventful campaign, it is remarkable indeed. Her division alone brought a total of \$1417.05.  
Mrs. Iola Rogers, divisional leader of the "Cubs Team", her captains and workers showed good sportsmanship and team-work throughout the drive. Mrs. Rogers who is an active church member, member of the Association Camp Committee and civic leader, led her division to a total of \$969.90.

Both teams, under the General Chairmanship of Mrs. A. C. Williams surpassed the stated Campaign Goal of \$2000—bringing in a total of \$2387.85.  
**CAPTAINS WIN HONORS**  
Captain Evelyn Scrotchings of the Tigers Team received two awards for the highest captains' report of the drive (inclusive of her individual worker's reports). Mrs. Ruby Willis, Captain Number 7 of the Cub's Team, received the "A. Louise Taylor Membership Award" for having brought in the highest total in individual memberships during the drive.  
This "Loving Cup" was presented to Mrs. A. Louise Taylor in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1943 for bringing 412 memberships; and will remain in Mrs. Willis' possession until the next Annual Membership Campaign, 1946.  
The women of Atlanta can look with pride upon "Their Association" which now has the largest membership of any branch in the country, realizing, at the same time, that

the "size" of membership isn't what counts most. We have a higher duty—that of continuing in efforts toward building the "Inclusive Fellowship" and so influencing the lives of women and girls of this community that we see a new era of progress and general uplift of humanity.  
**FINAL REPORTS AND TEAM STANDINGS**  
**TIGERS' TEAM**, Mrs. Lillian Garnett, Leader  
Mrs. Evelyn Scrotchings, captain, 412 memberships, \$621.00 cash.  
Mrs. Laurine Weaver, captain, 214 memberships, \$211.95 cash.  
Mrs. H. L. Gouldrock, captain, 153 memberships, \$147.00 cash.  
Mrs. Alma Sanders captain, 226 memberships, \$218.00 cash.  
Mrs. M. L. Bickers, captain, 37 memberships, \$31.00 cash.  
Mrs. Roberta S. Harper, captain 153 memberships, \$148.00 cash.  
Mrs. Mabel Cogwell, captain, 41 memberships, \$41.00, cash.  
Total Tiger's Team, 1236 memberships, \$1417.95 cash.  
**CUBS' TEAM**, Mrs. Iola Rogers, Leader.  
Mrs. Pearl Carr, captain, 3 memberships, \$3.00, cash.  
Mrs. G. T. Alexander, captain, 126 memberships, \$249.40 cash.  
Mrs. Edith Walker captain, 22 memberships, \$27.00 cash.  
Mrs. Roberta Parks, captain, 35 memberships, \$35.00 cash.  
Mrs. A. A. Reid, captain, 97 memberships, \$95.00 cash.  
Mrs. J. A. Brittain, captain, 163 memberships, \$160.00 cash.  
Mrs. Ruby Willis captain, 234 memberships, \$220.00 cash.  
Miss Anne Caudle, captain, 85 memberships, \$180.50 cash.  
Total Cub's Team, 765 memberships, \$969.90, cash.  
Campaign Total, 2001 memberships, \$2387.85, cash.  
Reported since official close of the Campaign 310 memberships, \$260.00.  
(inclusive of voluntary payments)  
Total memberships as of November 10th, (fees) 2311 memberships, \$2647.85, cash.  
**CAMPAIGN WORKERS RECEIVE COMMENDATION**  
The leadership in this campaign could not have realized a successful closing had it not been for the many ardent workers who made unlimited contacts. Workers in the Tigers Division included: Mrs. E. E. Clemmons, Mrs. Anne Pruden, Alice Jackson, Annie Belle Taylor; Ida Prather; N. M. Towns, Hilda Bell, Mrs. R. H. Rogers; Z. A. Thomas A. S. Greene, Ruby Ivory, A. V. Post; Vesta Pruitt; J. W. Dobbs and Misses Sadye Watson; N. Marguerite Jones; Ida Wolfe and Rubye Weaver—Ethel Hill; Catherine Dawson Mary McFarland, Odessa Campbell; Beatrice Ricks, Ruth Pope, Jessie Lewis, Sara Wynn Lizzine Flournoy; Pinkie

Ogletree; J. O. Clements, Anna Patterson; Julia McKinney; Lucille Marchman, A. L. Matthews, Mrs. Sam Lee; Evelyn Scott, Cora Rosenberry; Annie B. Harrison; Ruth Barner, P. H. Garland, Daisy Payne; Juanita Harris, Renita Phillips; Rommel Patterson, Francis Cantrell, Essie Hoard; Quennell Maddox, Evelyn Gilbert, Louise Bolar; Miss Coachman, Louise Freeman; Eddie Merkerson, Lucille Lewis, M. M. Penn; B. E. Hall, Minnie Matthews Ruby Bearden. Mrs. Ruth Booker Wall; Beatrice Henderson; Mabel Cogwell and Mrs. Carrie L. George.  
**CUBS:** Mrs. P. B. Murrar, Mrs. Photo Scott, Mrs. Lillie M. Bridges, Mrs. Annie Logan Mrs. Dollina Mayfield, Mrs. Ruby Lipsey, Mrs. Lois McMath; Mrs. Wayman Bray; Mrs. Ethel Dixon, Mrs. Elizabeth Kynds, Mrs. Irene Jones, Mrs. Fannie Moore, Mrs. A. T. Walden, Mrs. Gertrude Ross, Mrs. Lizzie Pearson, Mrs. Emmastine Lyons, Mrs. Lena Smith Mrs. Hattie Dorsey Mrs. Lillie Carter, Mrs. Alberta King, Mrs. Charlotte Shorter, Mrs. Sophia Lovelace, Mrs. J. E. Reed, Mrs. Viola Austin, Mrs. Samella Patton; Mrs. Mary Cobb and Mrs. Carrie Black and Mrs. G. W. Owens.

Audited reports showing captains and workers total solicitations and cash will be mailed to each captain and worker.